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Press Release

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Naval Aviation Enterprise Leadership Visits USS Ronald Reagan

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- Naval Aviation Enterprise (NAE) senior leadership visited USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Sept. 23 as part of the Boots on the Ground/ Deck (BoG/D) program.

NAE is a partnership of naval aviation resource providers working together to advance and sustain warfighting readiness by resolving interdependent issues affecting multiple stakeholders. This mission is enabled by continuous process improvement (CPI), which is transforming the maintenance and supply chain into an integrated, reliable, demand-pull-based replenishment system. This is accomplished by training and mentoring fleet Sailors and Marines in CPI methodologies and philosophies, as well as institutionalizing business practices.

Those in attendance included Commander, Naval Air Forces Vice Adm. David Buss; Commander, Naval Air Systems Command Vice Adm. David Dunaway; Commander, Defense Logistics Agency Land and Maritime Rear Adm. David Pimpo; Commander, Fleet Readiness Centers Rear Adm. Paul Sohl; and Assistant Deputy Commandant of Marine Aviation Russell Howard.

BoG/D events are a venue for Sailors and Marines from all ranks to candidly discuss working-level concerns with flag officers, senior executive service civilians and subject matter experts from provider commands and activities. The visits are also an opportunity for senior leadership to see how junior Sailors and Marines improved on current practices across the Navy and Marine Corps and how to replicate them across the fleet.

"What we do every single day matters to this nation," said Buss. "The small improvements we make each and every day ultimately matter. At the end of the day, these choices and improvements add up and enable us to maintain fleet readiness and make things like the recent air strikes in the Middle East possible."

The visits from NAE encompass multiple military installations. They focus on the

challenges that installations overcame in order to improve command and naval aviation efficiency.

"I take great pride in how far we've come and matured as a whole, and how we are improving our future by empowering junior Sailors," Buss said. "The best ideas don't come from the top; they come from the people walking the flight line."

Reagan's crew successfully improved efficiency in multiple problem areas thanks to the CPI program. The program trains Sailors to look at their job processes and find ways to decrease lost time and wasted efficiency.

"One of the best aspects of CPI is it brings Sailors from all parts of the ship and all walks of life together," said Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Reid, the aviation maintenance officer aboard USS Ronald Reagan. "Sailors learn as a team, and they make things better as a team."

Reagan recently improved the process of shipboard hazardous material (HAZMAT) issue and receipt.

Historically, HAZMAT issue was a one- to two-hour process that negatively impacted man hours and operational effectiveness.

A rapid improvement event, or RIE, on the ship's HAZMAT issue found a way to decrease customer wait time, freeing Sailors up to focus their time and energy on required aircraft maintenance.

"As with most CPI projects, the Sailors leveraged common sense solutions to dramatically improve ship board life," Reid said. "People often forget the power of one simple idea."

Reagan is currently undergoing a Planned Incremental Availability period in preparation for its homeport change to Yokosuka, Japan. The ship's leadership is also using this time to conduct a major overhaul on various aviation practices, thereby improving time and resources spent on common processes.

"NAE is probably one of the most significant enterprises in the world, it recognizes that good ideas don't need rank to implement," said Reagan's Commanding Officer Capt. Chris Bolt. "You'll see that most of the initiatives on the Reagan came from our junior Sailors."

The CPI program and NAE have saved the Department of Defense a lot of man hours and money through its efforts. It allows Sailors to implement the best practices across the board, improving fleet readiness.

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